DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 456 866 JC 010 560

TITLE	Pocket Profile of Community Colleges: Trends & Statistics. 3rd Edition.
INSTITUTION	American Association of Community Colleges, Washington, DC.; Association of Community Coll. Trustees, Annandale, VA.
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	15p.
AVAILABLE FROM	American Association of Community Colleges, One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20036 ($15). Tel: 202-728-0200. Web site: www.aacc.nche.edu.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Associate Degrees; College Faculty; *College Programs; *Community Colleges; Demography; Diversity (Institutional); Diversity (Student); Educational Change; Educational History; *Educational Trends; Financial Support; Salaries; School Statistics; *Statistical Data; Technical Education; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS	*American Association of Community Colleges; Association of Community College Trustees

ABSTRACT

This brief profile discusses trends and statistics for American community colleges. It identifies the top five programs at community colleges as: (1) dental hygiene; (2) manufacturing process technology; (3) telecommunications/interactive information specialists; (4) physical therapy assistant; and (5) registered nursing. Other highlights include: (1) according to 1997-1998 statistics, there are 1,130 public and independent community colleges in the United States; (2) about 46% of all first-time college freshmen attend community colleges; (3) in fall 1997, more than 5.4 million students took credit courses at community colleges, while another 5 million took non-credit courses; (4) minority enrollment in community colleges rose during the 1990s, accounting for 30% of community college enrollment at the time of this report (1998); (5) more than half of all undergraduates with disabilities attend community colleges; (6) 60% of community college students are older than 21 and 16% are older than 40; (7) nearly 50% of all community college students work full time; and (8) attending community college to obtain credits for transfer to a four-year institution remains a goal for a large segment of the student population. This profile also points out that it is no longer uncommon for a person with a college degree to attend a community college for computer courses or to otherwise update work skills. (NB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 456 866

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

D. Carey

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

2B

POCKET PROFILE of COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

TRENDS & STATISTICS

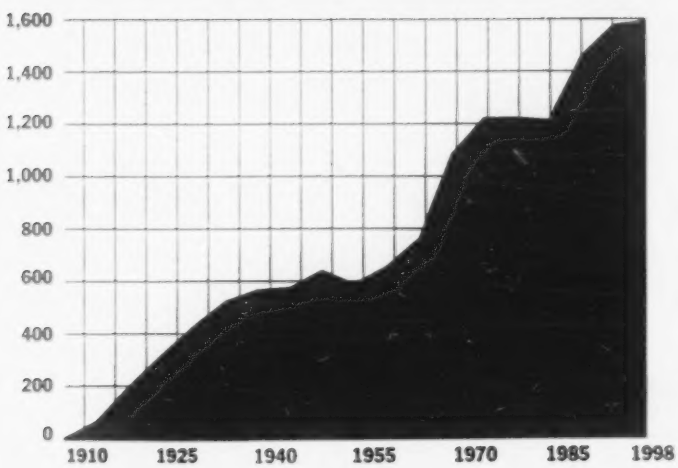
3D EDITION

TC010560

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Community colleges are centers of educational opportunity. They are an American invention that put publicly funded higher education at close-to-home facilities, beginning nearly 100 years ago with Joliet Junior College. Since then, they have been inclusive institutions that welcome all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. The process of making higher education available to the maximum number of people continues to evolve at 1,130 public and independent community colleges. When the branch campuses of community colleges are included, the number totals about 1,600.

Figure 1: Number of Community Colleges Including Branch Campuses: 1900–1998



Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1997 and AACC 1998

About 46 percent of all first-time college freshmen attend community colleges. In fall 1997, more than 5.4 million students took credit courses at community colleges, and approximately 5 million more participated in noncredit classes. During the full 1996–97 academic year, more than 9 million students took credit courses at community colleges.

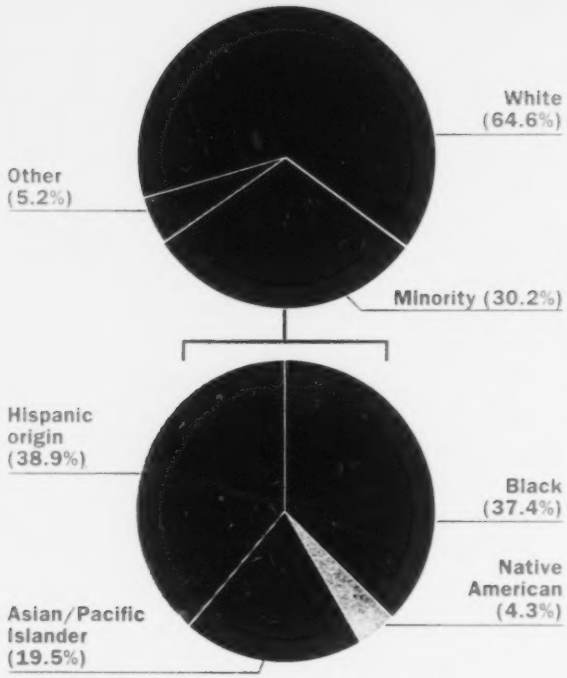
Table 1: Undergraduate Fall Headcount Enrollment by Level of Institution: 1990–1997

Year	Community College	Four-Year College
1975	3,970,119	5,709,117
1980	4,526,287	5,949,341
1985	4,531,077	6,066,315
1990	5,240,083	6,719,694
1995	5,440,960	6,873,608
1997	5,420,265	6,845,272

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

Community colleges' commitment to accessibility is facilitated by open admissions policies and low tuitions. Consequently, community college enrollments reflect the rich diversity of the nation. Community college campuses are populated with people of all ages, ethnic and cultural heritages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Figure 2: Minority Student Enrollment in Community Colleges: 1997



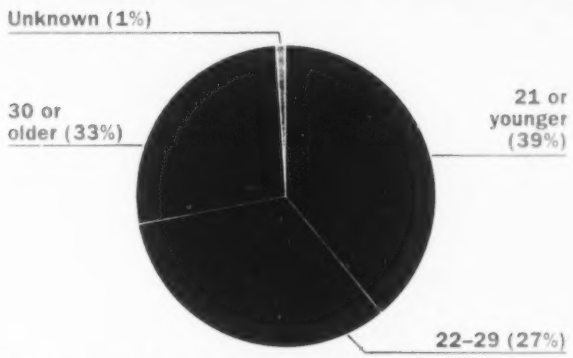
Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

During the 1990s, minority enrollment at community colleges has risen. Minority students account for about 30 percent of community college enrollment, as shown in figure 2.

Forty-nine percent of all undergraduates who identify themselves as members of racial or ethnic minorities attend community colleges. More than half of all undergraduates with disabilities attend community colleges.

Sixty percent of community college students are older than 21. The number of students older than 40 is expected to increase significantly in the future. Because so many of those who attend community colleges are adults with work and family responsibilities, nearly two-thirds of community college students are part-time students.

Figure 3: Community College Enrollment by Age: 1997

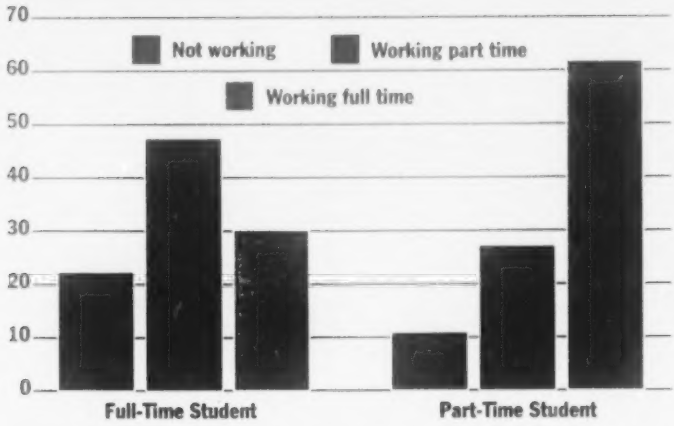


Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

Figure 4: Enrollment Status of Community College Students: 1997

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

Figure 5: Employment Status of Community College Students: 1995–96



Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1997

- 30 percent of community college students are members of minorities.
- 16 percent of community college students are older than 40.
- 63 percent of community college students attend part time.
- Nearly 50 percent of all community college students work full time.
- 30 percent of full-time community college students also work full time.

Responding to local needs is an integral goal of community colleges. This commitment to local service, coupled with the promotion of lifelong learning, has resulted in multifaceted curricula. Not only are community colleges training the future workforce, they are also instructing employed workers in new technologies. It is no longer uncommon for a person with a college degree to attend a community college for computer courses or to otherwise update work skills.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

While occupational and technical programs are the focus for many students, attaining credits that transfer for a baccalaureate degree continues to be a goal for a large segment of the community college population. The number of community college students needing developmental education programs in basic skills has increased markedly in recent years. Adult education courses that respond to social and recreation interests are also popular at many colleges.

Table 2: Top Five Hot Programs at Community Colleges by Starting Salary: 1997

Program Name	Average Starting Salary
Dental hygiene	$31,750
Manufacturing process technology	$30,675
Telecommunications/interactive information specialists	$29,268
Physical therapy assistant	$28,782
Registered nursing	$28,777

Source: AACC Hot Programs Survey 1997

Table 3: Top Five Certificate and Associate Degree Programs at Community Colleges: 1996–97

Certificates	Number of Awards
Health professional & related sciences	53,986
Business management & admin. services	22,957
Protective services	13,138
Mechanics and repairers	12,544
Precision production trades	8,131
Associate Degrees	
Liberal/general studies & humanities	167,448
Health professions & related sciences	76,848
Business management & admin. services	71,766
Engineering-related technologies	20,208
Protective services	17,445

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

Table 4: Median Earnings for Persons 18 or Older by Educational Attainment: 1996	
No high school diploma	$17,148
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	$22,502
Some college, no degree	$26,090
Associate degree	$29,457
Bachelor's degree	$36,525
Master's degree	$45,053
Professional degree	$65,916
Doctorate	$56,758

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1997

- More than 450,000 associate degrees and 200,000 certificates are conferred each year by community colleges.
- 37 percent of all community college students receive an associate degree or certificate within five years of first enrolling.
- Another 15 percent of these students are still pursuing postsecondary education five years after their initial enrollment.
- The percentage of the U.S. population with an associate degree as their highest degree has risen from 5.9 percent in 1992 to 7.2 percent in 1997.

Community colleges' low tuitions and financial aid have kept higher education within the reach of many Americans. Although community college tuitions have increased in recent years, they remain significantly lower than those at four-year institutions.

Table 5: Average Annual Tuition and Fees: 1996–97

Public	Community college	$ 1,283
	Four-year college	$ 2,986
Independent	Community college	$ 7,190
	Four-year college	$ 12,920
All	Community college	$ 1,543
	Four-year college	$ 6,107

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1997

As tuitions have increased, so has the number of community college students receiving federal Pell Grants. Nearly one-third of these funds go to students enrolled at community colleges. Overall, the number and amount of financial aid awards at community colleges continue to be less than at four-year institutions because costs are lower and most students attend part time.

Table 6: Percentage of Federal Financial Aid Program Dollars Received by Public College Students: 1996–97

Pell Grants	Community college	33.0%
	Four-year college	36.0%
Campus Based	Community college	9.8%
	Four-year college	41.1%
Stafford Loans	Community college	5.5%
	Four-year college	48.0%
PLUS	Community college	1.2%
	Four-year college	37.5%

Source: Gladieux, Lawrence E., and Watson Scott Swail. 1998. *Trends in Student Aid, 1998*. New York: The College Board.

Table 7: Percentage of Public College Students Receiving Aid by Type: 1995–96		
Any Aid	Community college	32.8%
	Four-year college	55.2%
Federal Grants	Community college	15.0%
	Four-year college	23.6%
State Aid	Community college	6.1%
	Four-year college	14.4%
Federal Loans	Community college	6.0%
	Four-year college	35.4%
Work Study	Community college	1.5%
	Four-year college	5.6%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

Figure 6: Maximum Pell Grant Value Adjusted for Inflation (Constant 1997 Dollars)

Source: Gladieux and Swail 1998

- 33 percent of public community college students received some type of financial aid in 1995–96.
- When controlled for inflation, the value of Pell Grants has decreased since 1974.
- Public community colleges' share of Pell Grants has increased relative to other higher education sectors.

Community colleges focus primarily on teaching and student learning. Throughout their history, community colleges have hired part-time instructors for the occupational expertise they bring to the classroom. As funding has tightened, community colleges have begun to rely more on adjunct faculty as a way to keep salary costs down.

Table 8: Full-Time and Part-Time Professional Staff at Community Colleges by Control of Institution: Fall 1997

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Professional Staff	144,328	178,465	322,793
Executive/administrative managerial	20,743	1,574	22,317
Faculty (instruction/research)	92,302	161,833	254,135
Assistants (instruction/research)	N/A	5,336	5,336
Professional (support/service)	31,283	9,722	41,005

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

Table 9: Community College Revenues by Source: 1996

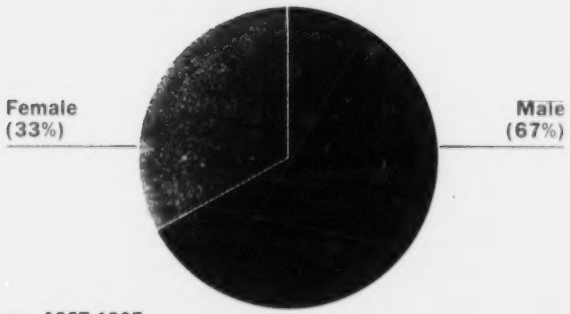
State government	39.8%
Tuition & fees	20.5%
Local government	17.3%
Pell Grants	7.3%
Other federal funds	5.0%
Other	9.2%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics 1998

■ Nearly two-thirds of community college faculty are part-time employees.
■ State funds have dropped to about 40 percent of community college revenues; they accounted for 50 percent of community college revenues in 1980.
■ Community college endowments amount to $1.2 billion.

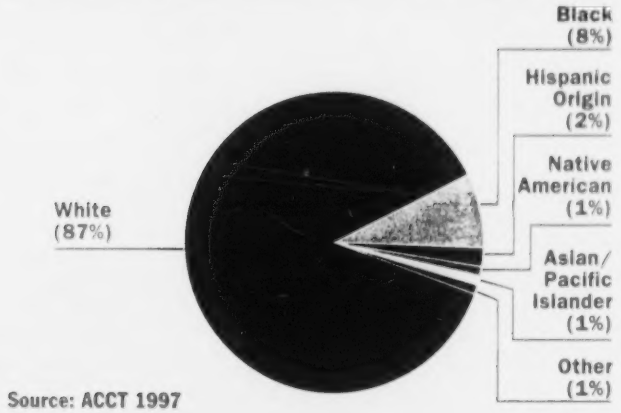
The democratic principles upon which community colleges were founded are evident in their governing structure as well as in their admissions policies. Public community colleges are governed by trustees who are either elected or appointed by elected officials. Most trustees receive little or no financial compensation.

Figure 7: Board Members by Gender



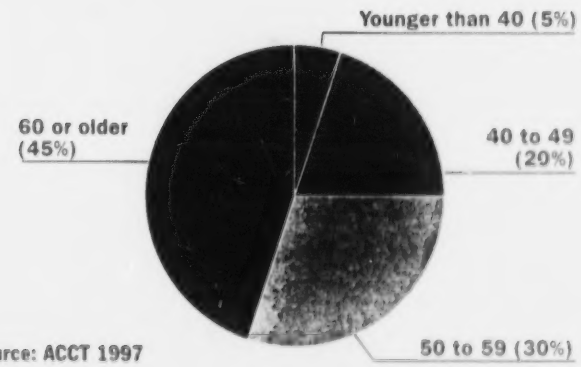
Source: ACCT 1997

Figure 8: Board Members by Racial/Ethnic Background



Source: ACCT 1997

Figure 9: Board Members by Age



Source: ACCT 1997

- 6,500 trustees govern the nation's community colleges.
- Trustees have served an average of 8.7 years on their boards.
- Most trustees are professionals or business owners and managers.

AACC

American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036
(202)728-0200
www.aacc.nche.edu

Association of Community College Trustees
1740 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202)775-4667
www.acct.org